

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed March 15, 2005. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1 and 4-22 were pending in this Application. Claims 2 and 3 were previously cancelled by Applicants without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 15, 16 and 18-21 were rejected, and Claims 1, 4-14, 17 and 22 were allowed. Claims 1, 4-18 and 22 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15, 16 and 20 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claims 15 and 16 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of these Claims as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 18, 19 and 21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,625,516 issued to Yukihide Niimi et al. ("Niimi et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention. Claim 18, however, to move this application forward, has been amended. Claim 21 has been deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-14, 17 and 22 were allowed, and Claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action, and Claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 15 and 16 to overcome the §112 rejection and Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable

Claim 20. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claim 18 and Claim 19 dependent on Claim 18. Applicants also respectfully submit Claims 1-19 and 22 are now in condition for allowance and request favorable action.

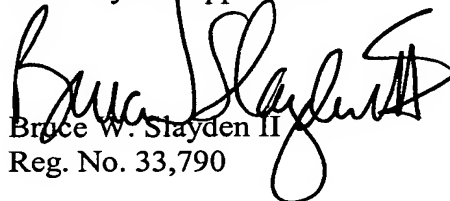
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,
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